

Charlton Parish Council
 Minutes of the Meeting 9th January 2025 at 7.30pm
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Present: Chairman Richard Bentley, Cllr Roger Davies, Cllr Helen Hill, Cllr Wendy Sharpe, District Cllr Angie Crump, Parish Clerk Wendy Cope.

- 1) Apologies Cllr Ted Grazier, Cllr Darren Salmons, Cllr Richard Wallis
- 2) Not present
- 3) Declaration of interest, None
- 4) Public Session One member of the public attended. He wanted to appraise The Council of an overgrown footpath which runs at the back of number 15 The Dovecote. The footpath is very overgrown and may soon become impassable. It was agreed that The Clerk would ask The Lengthsman to attend to it ASAP.

5) Review of minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of The Parish Council Meeting held 14th of November 2024 were proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr. Sharpe.

6) County Councillor's Report Cllr Eyre report attached.

7) District Councillors Cllr Crump commented on the devolution of Worcestershire County Council and Wychavon District Council. The white paper issued stated that it will be done in three stages, there is a lot more detail regarding this in Cllr. Liz Eyre's report. Cllr Crump appraised The Council of the SWDP saying that all the information had gone in on time. She also commented on various planning applications: Field barn Lane and Middle Lane, Cropthorne due to safety issues on the roads had been refused.

8) Report on The South Worcestershire Development Plan. Please see Cllr Crump's report.

9) Report on The WCC Minerals Plan. Cllr Davies reported there was no change on The Minerals Plan.

10) Report from Parish Path Warden, Cropthorne and Charlton Village Hall and Workman Trust/Old School Room. There wasn't a report from The Parish Path Warden, Cllr Bentley said he would speak to him. Cropthorne Village Hall had emailed and Cllr Bentley had hoped to attend their meeting, unfortunately he was attending a training course on that date so would send his apologies and attend next time. The Hall would send their Agenda's and Minutes to The Clerk in future. Cllr Sharpe reported from The Workman Trust, the heater that was already in situ would be moved to a higher lever and the old heaters would be replaced with the same sort as the one to be moved to a higher level, she said these issues would be dealt with at a meeting next week.

11) Report of Planning Committee A Planning Meeting had been held on 10th of December 2024 to discuss an appeal re refusal of planning permission App/H1840/W/24/3354735 Upper Haselor Farm Charlton. The Council commented on the use of the track causing loss of amenity for other residents, to The Planning Inspector and reiterated previous comments. W/24/02444/GPDQ The Old Winery, Boston Lane, Charlton, this is an application for conversion from agricultural to residential, this was applied for in 2016 and was refused as it had not been used for agricultural purposes for many years. The Council responded pointing this out. W/23/01294/FUL with regards to this mobile home it is no longer occupied., so The Council asked for enforcement to arrange removal The Council had received a pre planning alert concerning A Planning Application for Highfields, Haselor

Lane, from an agent. We thanked The Agent and advised that due to the fact that we cannot pre-determine any response until a full application is received, we are unable to comment at the moment.

12) Finance The Clerk appraised The Council of the balances of the three bank accounts 1) Treasurers Account £4127.51, 2) The Bus Account £11,074.40 and 3) The New High Interest Account £30,000. The Clerk presented a copy of bank statements, balance sheet and books to be signed off. It was agreed to separate the costs and receipts for the cemetery on a separate balance sheet too, so that The Council were aware of how much it was costing, going forward. It was agreed that the request for the precept should remain the same at £14,622.00 as last year, this was proposed by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Hill. The Clerk told The Council that they could have one year's precept in reserves.

13) To receive details of Parish Councillor emails The Clerk reported that the.gov.uk emails and the new website were on going and she hoped to really have everything running smoothly soon. She asked Cllr Sharpe if there had been any interest from The Workman Trust concerning taking over part of the website. Cllr Sharpe said she would ask and report back.

14) Report on Issues affecting The Green The Clerk reported that The Lengthsman had completed some work on some of the benches on the green. The Clerk will collate a list of volunteers to clear the silt from The Merrybrook. Cllrs Bentley and Davies pointed out that a risk assessment would be needed, and people would need to be made aware of liability issues in a pre-work briefing. Cllr Sharpe raised the issue of the footbridge repairs. The Clerk informed her that she had made a note to chase footpaths at County, concerning the repairs in the spring. This is a County Council asset as a result only they can undertake/authorise repairs.

15) Report on Cemetery Matters The Clerk reported that she had instructed the arborist P E Denning to quote for the work needed to the trees at the back of the cemetery. Cllr Davies said he had been approached by someone asking if The Council would allow No Mow May at the back of The Cemetery, The Council did not Approve this.

16) Report on Highways and Footpaths Cllr Davies mentioned the footpath off to Church Leys, whilst being ok at the moment this will need work by the CC early in the growing season.

17) To consider an application for public footpath status for paths not on the definitive map.
nothing to report

18) Report on Flooding Issues Cllr Davies reported that there had been a real risk of flooding recently, however it hadn't happened. Cllr Davies said that maintenance was needed on leaking dams, Cllr Bentley said he would speak to Cllr Grazier. Cllr Davies reported that he now had the telephone number to ring when barriers were needed during floods and will update The Flood Plan. We need to ask village representatives to take responsibility for telephoning to request barriers when roads are flooded.

19) Reports for information It was noted that Pollution on The River Avon Action Group were still taking samples and readings, they were also looking for funding. Cllr Crump reported that there was to be Great UK Water Blitz in spring 2025.

20) Correspondence Cllr Davies reported on an email from CALC regarding the improvement of bus stops. It was agreed that since there weren't any buses through Charlton now, the two in the Village should be removed. The Clerk was asked to action this.

23) Items for inclusion/information in the next Agenda

24) Date of the next Parish Council Meeting Thursday 13th March 2025

Meeting adjourned 9.30pm

Signed/date

